

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed September 28, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on November 19, 2001; and July 23, 2003.

Claims 1-102 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1-6 and 49-54 are independent. Claims 1-6 and 49-54 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. Claims 19-24, 31-42, 61-66, 73-84 and 97-102 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner (page 2, Paper No. 20050416). Accordingly, claims 1-18, 25-30, 43-60, 67-72 and 85-96 are currently elected, of which claims 1-6 and 49-54 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

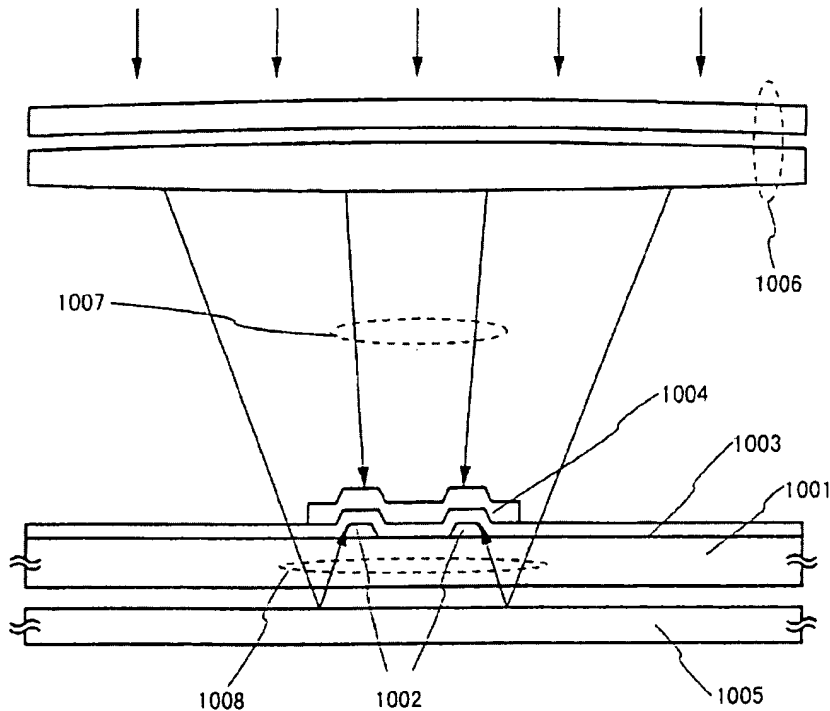
Paragraph 1 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-18, 25-30, 43-60, 67-72 and 85-96 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,410,368 to Kawasaki et al. Paragraph 2 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-18, 43-60 and 85-96 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,599,788 to Kawasaki et al. Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-6, 13-18, 25-30, 43-60, 67-72 and 85-90 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,744,008 to Kasahara et al. The Applicants respectfully submit that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

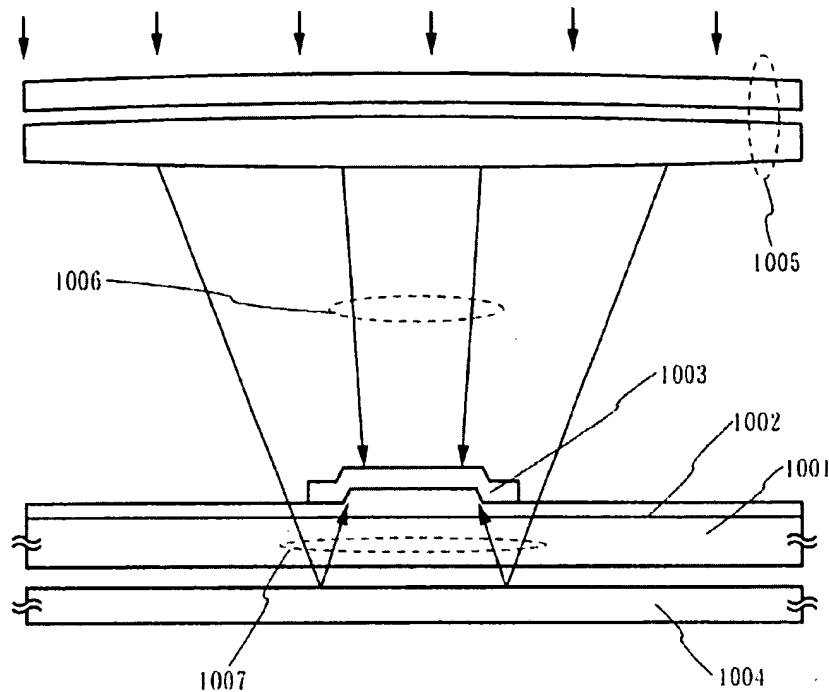
Independent claims 1-6 have been amended to recite that a reflective member comprises a patterned reflective layer, which is supported in the present specification,

for example, by Embodiment Mode 2 and Figures 22A-24E. Independent claims 49-54 have been amended to recite irradiating a semiconductor film with a first laser beam from a front surface of a substrate, where the semiconductor film is formed over the entire front surface of a substrate; and irradiating the semiconductor film with a second laser beam from a rear surface of the substrate, which is supported in the specification, for example, by Embodiment Mode 1 and Figures 7 and 8. For the reasons provided below, the Applicants respectfully submit that Kawasaki '368, Kawasaki '788 or Kasahara does not teach the above-referenced features of the present invention, either explicitly or inherently.

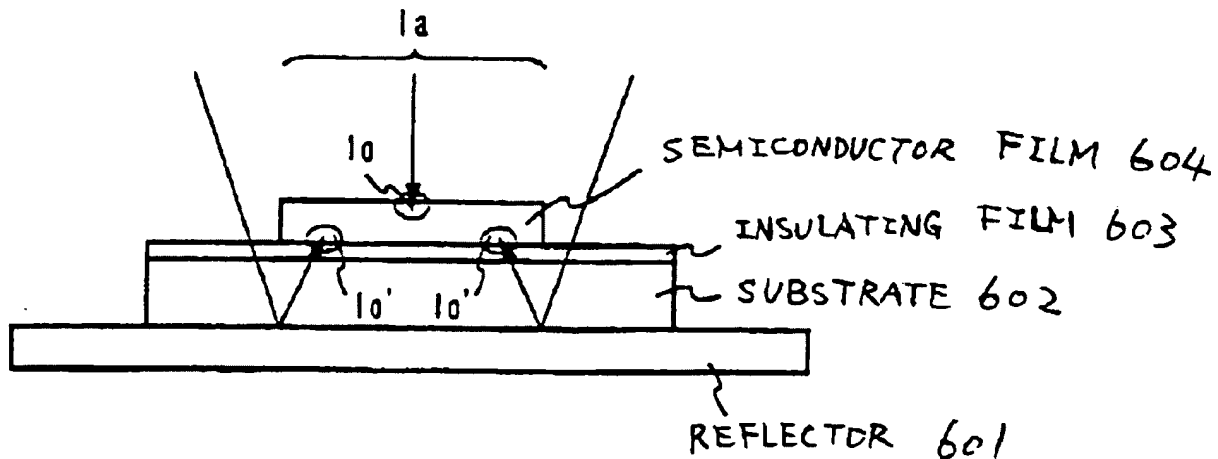
In the "Response to Arguments" section, the Official Action asserts that reflective plate 1005 of Kawasaki '368 (Figure 1, reproduced below) corresponds with the reflective member of the claims of the present application (page 5, Paper No. 20050927).



Also, the Official Action asserts that reflective plate 1004 of Kawasaki '788 (Figure 1, reproduced below) corresponds with the reflective member of the claims of the present application (Id.).



Further, the Official Action asserts that reflector 601 of Kasahara (Figure 6, reproduced below) corresponds with the reflective member of the claims of the present application (Id.).



The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the above assertions in the Official Action.

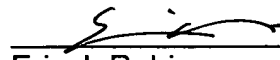
Kawasaki '368 discloses that "the reflective plate 1005 has a reflective surface made of aluminum (Al), titanium (Ti), titanium nitride (TiN), chromium (Cr), tungsten (W), tungsten nitride (WN), or the like" (column 4, lines 58-60). Similarly, Kawasaki '788 discloses that the reflective plate 1004 has a reflective surface made of the same materials (column 4, lines 48-51). Kasahara discloses that "a tantalum nitride film was used for providing the reflector 601" (column 6, lines 31-33). However, Kawasaki '368, Kawasaki '788 or Kasahara does not disclose that a reflective member comprises a patterned reflective layer, either explicitly or inherently.

Further, regarding amended claims 49-54, Kawasaki '368 (Figure 1, 1004), Kawasaki '788 (Figure 1, 1003) or Kasahara (Figure 6, 604) appears to disclose irradiating an island-like semiconductor layer with a laser beam. That is, the semiconductor layer is not formed over the entire front surface of a substrate. Therefore, Kawasaki '368, Kawasaki '788 or Kasahara does not disclose irradiating a semiconductor film with a first laser beam from a front surface of a substrate, where the semiconductor film is formed over the entire front surface of a substrate; and irradiating the semiconductor film with a second laser beam from a rear surface of the substrate, either explicitly or inherently.

Since Kawasaki '368, Kawasaki '788 or Kasahara does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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